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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10/624,152 | 07/21/2003 | Richard A. Fuelling | | 5651 |
| 7590 | 10/05/2005 | | EXAMINER | |
| John Wiley Horton, Attorney Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar, P.A. 2nd Floor 215 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32301 | | | STERLING, AMY JO | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3632 | |
| | | | DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005 | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/624,152 | FUELING ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Amy J. Sterling | 3632 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is the **Final Office Action** for application number 10/624,152 Modular Accessory Holder, filed on 7/21/03. Claims 1-3 are pending. This **Final Office Action** is in response to applicant's reply dated 7/28/05. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Applicant's amendment necessitated any new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

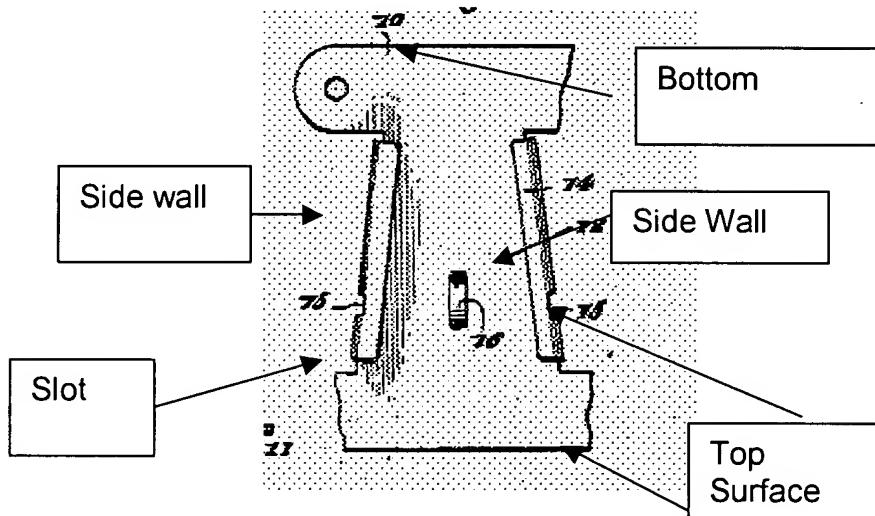
Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "small" in claim 1, is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "small" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

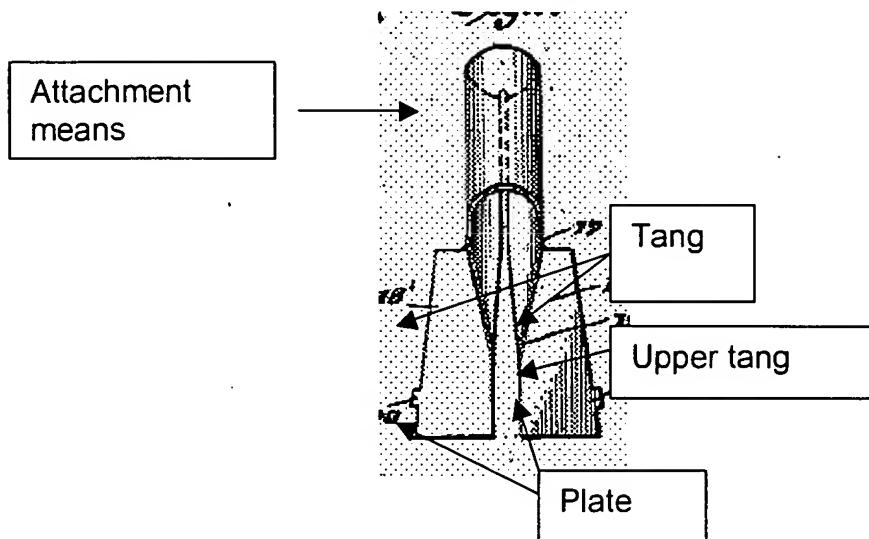
Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 2174140 to Schofield.

The patent to Schofield discloses a device having a receiver (10) fixedly attached to a fixed point, wherein the receiver has a top surface (See Drawing Below), and an open front, a slot opening in the top surface and descending downward therefrom having an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the slot is bounded by a back wall (12), a front wall (14), and first and second side walls (See Drawing) which taper toward each other so that the upper portion is wider than the lower portion of the slot.



Shoefield also discloses a modular mount (17, 18', 19, 20) including an attachment means (See Drawing Below), a plate (See Drawing), a tang (See Drawing) having a back wall, a front wall, a first and second side wall, wherein the first and second sidewalls are parallel to the first and second side walls of the slot respectively when inserted in the slot, the tang descending from the plate first and second steps (20) proximate to a junction between the tang and the plate, wherein the first and second steps are positioned to bear against a top surface while maintaining a small clearance between the first and second side walls, wherein the first and second side walls of the

tang taper toward each other so that the upper portion of the tang is wider than the lower portion and wherein the weight of the modular mount will tend to retain the tang in the slot.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 2174140 to Schofield as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of United States Patent No. 5321904 to Benson.

Schofield discloses applicant's basic inventive concept including teaching that the mounting means has a hollow tubular rod holder attached to the modular mount. Shofield does not specifically teach that the device holds a fishing rod.

Benson teaches a modular mount having a mounting means (10) with a hollow tubular rod holder (See Fig. 11) with a fishing rod (64) mounted in the device, the rod used to catch fish. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Benson to have used a fishing rod with the holder as taught by Shofield, in order to catch fish.

Response to Arguments

The applicant has argued Shofield does not teach a device in which the steps bear against the top surface. This is unpersuasive in that the top surface as defined above include a surface in which the steps bear against. The applicant has also argued that that the weight of the device does not help to aid the tang to retain the tang in the slot, due to the wedge's orientation. This is unpersuasive because the limitation is being argued narrower than claimed and the weight of the tang will aid the steps to bear against the top surface of the device as shown above.

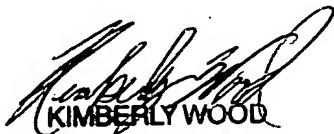
Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 571-272-6823. The examiner can normally be reached (M-F 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached at 571-272-6788. The fax machine number for the Technology center is 7571-273-8300 (formal amendments) or 571-273-6823 (informal amendments and communications). Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at 571-272-3600.

AJS

Amy J. Sterling
9/27/05


KIMBERLY WOOD
PRIMARY EXAMINER